

U.S. Application No. 09/720,629 -- 2

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 14 – 21 as follows:

1 - 13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) Base cloth for tufted carpet, wherein
the base cloth is constituted by nonwoven fabric made of filaments formed of poly
lactic acid based polymers, each polymer being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic
acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid having a copolymerization mole ratio of 90
or more and less than 100 and the other having a copolymerization mole ratio of more than
0 and 10 or less,

wherein the each filament is formed of the poly lactic acid based polymer with high
melting point and the poly lactic acid based polymer with low melting point, and has a
round cross-section selected from a group of side-by-side, islands-sea and sheath-core
types, and comprises polymer with high melting point and polymer with low melting point,
birefringence of 12×10^{-3} to 30×10^{-3} and crystallization degree of 15 to 25 percent by
weight, and

wherein the filaments constituting the base cloth are thermally bonded with each
other, and wherein the base cloth for tufted carpet has heat shrinkage of 1 percent or less at
120°C in 3 minutes both in a machine direction and a cross direction thereto.

15. (currently amended) Base cloth according to claim 14, wherein the filaments are
adhered with each other at the contact points thereof by binder resin comprising another
polymer at the contact points thereof.

16. (currently amended) Base cloth for tufted carpet, wherein
the base cloth is constituted by nonwoven fabric made of filaments formed of poly
lactic acid based polymers, each polymer being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic
acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid having a copolymerization mole ratio of 90
or more and less than 100 and the other having a copolymerization mole ratio of more than
0 and 10 or less,

~~wherein the each filament is formed of the poly lactic acid based polymer with high melting point and the poly lactic acid based polymer with low melting point, and has a non-round cross-section selected from a group of side-by-side, islands-sea, sheath-core and multilobe types, and comprises polymer with high melting point and polymer with low melting point, and crystallization degree of 15 to 25 percent by weight, and~~

~~wherein the filaments constituting the base cloth are thermally bonded with each other, and wherein the base cloth for tufted carpet has heat shrinkage of 1 percent or less at 120°C in 3 minutes both in a machine direction and a cross direction thereto.~~

17. (currently amended) Base cloth according to claim 16, wherein the filaments are adhered with each other at contact points thereof by binder resin comprising another polymer at the contact points thereof.

18. (currently amended) Base cloth for tufted carpet, wherein the base cloth is being constituted by nonwoven fabric made of filaments formed of poly lactic acid based polymer, the polymer being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid having a copolymerization mole ratio of 90 or more and less than 100 and the other having a copolymerization mole ratio of more than 0 and 10 or less,

~~wherein the filament has a round cross-section of single phase, birefringence of 12×10^{-3} to 30×10^{-3} and crystallization degree of 15 to 25 percent by weight,~~

~~wherein the filaments constituting the base cloth are thermally bonded with each other and adhered with each other at the contact points thereof by binder resin comprising another polymer at the contact points thereof, and~~

~~wherein the base cloth for tufted carpet has heat shrinkage of 1 percent or less at 120°C in 3 minutes both in a machine direction and a cross direction thereto.~~

19. (currently amended) Base cloth for tufted carpet, wherein
the base cloth is being constituted by nonwoven fabric made of filaments formed of
poly lactic acid based polymer, the polymer being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic
acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid having a copolymerization mole ratio of 90
or more and less than 100,

wherein the filament has a non-round cross-section of single phase and
crystallization degree of 15 to 25 percent by weight, and

wherein the filaments constituting the base cloth are thermally bonded with each
other and adhered with each other at the contact points thereof by binder resin comprising
another polymer at the contact points thereof, and wherein the base cloth for tufted carpet
has heat shrinkage of 1 percent or less at 120°C in 3 minutes both in a machine direction
and a cross direction thereto.

20. (currently amended) Base cloth for tufted carpet, wherein
the base cloth is constituted by nonwoven fabric made of a mixture of first filaments
formed of first poly lactic acid based polymer being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-
lactic acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid having a copolymerization mole ratio
of 90 or more and less than 100 and the other having a copolymerization mole ratio of
more than 0 and 10 or less, and second filaments formed of second poly lactic acid based
polymer having lower melting point than that of the first poly lactic acid based polymer
being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic
acid having a copolymerization mole ratio of 90 or more and less than 100 and the other
having a copolymerization mole ratio of more than 0 and 10 or less, in which each first
filament is formed of a poly lactic acid based polymer with high melting point and each
second filament is formed of a second poly lactic acid based polymer with low melting
point,

wherein each of the first and second filaments has round cross-section, birefringence of 12×10^{-3} to 30×10^{-3} and crystallization degree of 15 to 25 percent by weight, and

wherein the filaments constituting the nonwoven fabric are thermally bonded with each other, and wherein the base cloth for tufted carpet has heat shrinkage of 1 percent or less at 120°C in 3 minutes both in a machine direction and a cross direction thereto.

21. (currently amended) Base cloth according to claim 20, wherein the filaments are adhered with each other at contact points thereof by binder resin comprising another polymer at the contact points thereof.

22. (original) Tufted carpet comprising the base cloth according to any one of claims 14 to 21.

Respectfully submitted,
Atsushi Matsunaga et al.
Fildes & Outland, P.C.


Christopher J. Fildes, Attorney
Registration No. 32,132
20916 Mack Avenue, Suite 2
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
(313) 885-1500